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*Helping People  
Help the Land*

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To Be Sent Via Electronic Mail

December 11, 2006

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-7-7

SUBJECT: LTP – NEW EQIP OUTREACH INITIATIVE

Purpose. To announce the New Immigrant Agricultural Producer EQIP Outreach Initiative.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2007

**ACTION DUE BY JANUARY 31, 2007**

As a focused outreach effort, Minnesota continues to support a New Immigrant Agricultural Producer Initiative. In fiscal year 2007, this effort will focus on securing contracts through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). A separate allocation of funding has been received at the State level to fill this initiative.

All eligible applications must be entered into Protracts using EQIP 2007 fund code 76F\_27\_S3 and the corresponding score sheet. The NRCS state office will work with the ASTC(FO) shortly after January 31<sup>st</sup> and February 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss selection of applications for funding.

The specifics for this initiative are:

1. A New Immigrant Agricultural Producer is defined as:
  - A person actively engaged in farming in the United States and producing agricultural products for 10 years or less;
  - A legal immigrant from a country other than the United States. Foreign individuals and members of foreign entities are eligible for EQIP but must obtain and provide to NRCS a Federal Identification Number; and
  - Must produce an agricultural commodity on an eligible land use (per EQIP manual).
2. All EQIP rules and policies must still be followed. This includes control of the land for the period covered by the contract and if eligible, up to 90 percent cost-share if the applicant is a Limited Resource Producer. The applicant must also be in SCIMS.

I am asking that you make a special effort on this important new initiative including monitoring traditional and non-traditional partners.

Questions related to this effort should be directed through the ASTC(FO) to Tim Koehler or Sid Cornelius at the NRCS State Office.

Tim Koehler, Acting for

WILLIAM HUNT  
State Conservationist

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